

SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT

A user authentication method for a remote control apparatus and a remote control apparatus using this method are provided. If a user inputs information for user authentication after having inputted a command for control of a controlled device, this information is compared with the corresponding user authentication information stored. If the user authentication is successful, it is determined whether a secondary authentication is required. If a secondary authentication is required, authentication data, as well as control data corresponding to the user's command, are transmitted to the controlled device. The controlled device operates in accordance with the received control data, if the authentication with the received authentication data was successful. The method and apparatus allow individual setting of a communication device for each controlled device. Further, data for secondary authentication may be transmitted first to a controlled device, and then, controlled data transmitted after the secondary authentication is completed successfully.